## W claim:

1. A microwave waveguide comprising:

broad walls separated by and electromagnetically coupled with at least one field modifier wherein said modifier has a nonlinear profile.

- 2. The microwave waveguide according to claim 1, wherein said field modifier is adjustable.
- 3. The microwave waveguide according to claim 1, wherein said waveguide includes at least two field modifiers having nonlinear profiles.
- 4. The microwave waveguide according to claim 2, wherein said field modifier is adjusted through the use of mechanical actuators.
- 5. The microwave waveguide according to claim 2, wherein said modifer is adjusted in response to a sensed condition in a web to be dried.
- 6. The microwave waveguide according to claim 1, wherein said field modifier is physically coupled to said broad walls.
- 7. The microwave waveguide according to claim 1, wherein said field modifier is capacitively coupled to said broad walls.
- 8. The microwave waveguide according to claim 1, wherein the field modifier is configured to provide uniform heating or drying along the length of the waveguide.
- 9. The microwave waveguide according to claim 1, wherein said field modifier is configured to provide a relative slot height profile as defined by
  - $h(z) = (b/\pi)\sin^{-1}[(1/\sin^2(\pi h_0/b) 2\omega Z\epsilon_0\epsilon^*_r tz/b)^{-1/2}]$
  - 10. A method of web heating or drying comprising:

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subjecting a paper web to a microwave field, wherein said heater or dryer includes at least one field modifier that is curvilinear.

- 11. The method according to claim 9, wherein said field modifier is adjustable.
- 12. The method according to claim 9, wherein at least two field modifiers have nonlinear profiles.
- 13. The method according to claim 10, wherein said field modifier is adjusted through the use of mechanical actuators.
- 14. The method according to claim 10, wherein said field modifier is adjusted in response to a sensed condition in a web to be dried.
- 15. The method according to claim 10, wherein the field modifier is configured to provide uniform heating or drying along the length of the waveguide.
- 16. The method according to claim 10, wherein said field modifier is configured to provide a relative slot height profile as defined by
  - $h(z) = (b/\pi)\sin^{-1}[(1/\sin^2(\pi h_o/b) 2\omega Z\epsilon_o\epsilon^*_r tz/b)^{-1/2}].$
  - 17. A microwave waveguide comprising:

broad walls separated by and electromagnetically coupled with at least one narrow wall wherein said narrow wall has a nonlinear profile.

- 18. The microwave waveguide according to claim 17, wherein said narrow wall is adjustable.
- 19. The microwave waveguide according to claim 17, wherein said waveguide includes at least two narrow walls having nonlinear profiles.

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